



OVERVIEW

Cotton Shed is an inclusive theatre company based in Rossendale, Lancashire. We deliver theatre workshops for all ages and believe we all have something to offer. Cotton Shed provides a safe place that celebrates everyone's unique talents and realises everyone's aspirations.

Cotton Shed is seeking a suitable candidate to Chair the board of trustees.

HISTORY

Originally established in 2007, the vision was to create an inspirational, imaginative, inclusive theatre in East Lancashire. The company was initially shaped by the shared vision of three local schools:

- Haslingden Primary School
- Haslingden High School
- Tor View Special School

These three establishments were the key to Cotton Shed's initial success with their commitment and passion.

Since March 2022 Cotton Shed has been run in partnership with Horse + Bamboo, another Rossendale theatre company who have acted as project managers for the company's Reaching Communities programme.

MISSION

Cotton Shed is based on the belief that everyone can thrive when everyone is included. Theatre can so often seem off-limits to many people. At Cotton Shed we aim to break down barriers between people and create a place without labels and where differences do not divide.

We bring people together who would otherwise never meet anywhere but here.

- Everyone is welcome.
- Everyone is valued.
- Everyone is included.

Cotton Shed recruitment pack – CHAIR

Together we can create something incredible whether this be in weekly sessions, at sharings or at full-scale productions.

Our goal is that if you come into any of our workshops, or watch any of our large-scale performances, then you will feel welcome, and recognise someone just like you in the room or on the stage.

Inclusion is behind everything we do and by creating a unique and inclusive environment, and incredible theatre that inspires, we aim to help build a more inclusive society. We know that when everyone is included, amazing things happen.

Cotton Shed brings together young people from all social and economic backgrounds, cultures and abilities together to work creatively alongside each other, some of whom have been isolated and excluded from mainstream society.

We believe that every person who joins our company helps change the way that we work.



We work to each individuals strengths and find a creative environment that will enable them to flourish.

We provide a safe and welcoming environment where confidence grows and have everyone has the opportunity to perform in large productions.

Cotton Shed wants to create a better world where everyone is welcome and everyone is included.

ATTRIBUTES OF A CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Commitment to the work of Cotton Shed Theatre

- A clear passion for our work, and alignment with our mission
- Understanding of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- Strategic vision
- Leadership background in any sector
- Good independent judgment
- Possesses tact, diplomacy and powers of persuasion.
- Experience of business planning and financial management.
- An ability to think creatively.
- Ability to work as a member of a team and willingness to state personal convictions and, equally, to accept a majority decision and be tolerant of other views
- An established reputation or profile with a willingness to use their contacts to advance the Company's mission
- A preparedness to offer personal and professional skills and experience to support the work of the staff when required.
- Commitment to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- Board members are also required to act with integrity and in the best interests of the Company, avoiding personal conflicts of interest, or misuse of the Company's funds or assets

BENEFITS OF BECOMING A TRUSTEE

- Networking opportunities
- Active involvement in a creative organisation at the heart of the Rossendale community
- Opportunity to actively support and guide the organisation and be part of work that reaches, benefits and influences a wide range of groups and stakeholders.
- Complementary tickets and opportunities for you and your family to access shows, workshops etc

ELIGIBILITY

Some people are disqualified by law from acting as a trustee including anyone who:

- Has an unspent conviction for an offence involving deception or dishonesty
- Is an undischarged bankrupt
- Has been removed from trusteeship of a charity by the Courts of the Charity Commission for misconduct or mismanagement
- Has been disqualified from being a company director under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

- No remuneration will be made, but travel and out-of-pocket expenses can be reimbursed where required.
- To provide advice and support to senior staff as appropriate

- To keep up to date with funding issues of note for the Company

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

For an informal discussion about the roles, please contact Esther Ferry-Kennington on esther@horseandbamboo.org or to apply please send a copy of your CV and a short cover letter explaining your suitability for the role to info@horseandbamboo.org.